

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION setting forth the 2011 State Legislative Agenda of the City of Seattle.

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle's Legislative Agenda is built with input from our City departments, elected officials, regional governmental agencies, statewide interest groups, and advocates; and

WHEREAS, the City will lobby the Legislature in cooperation with these entities; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 legislative session will last one-hundred and twenty days and will result in the adoption of operating, capital, and transportation budgets, as well as changes to state policy; and

WHEREAS, given the current economic slowdown and the serious decline in resources at the federal, state and local levels, the need for government entities to streamline activities, seek more cost-effective approaches for providing key government services, and consider new methods for funding important government services is even more critical; and

WHEREAS, despite the difficult economic times, elected officials of Seattle believe it is the state's responsibility to help fund critical services protecting our citizens and our quality of life, and that ensuring access to public benefits will help vulnerable individuals and families succeed; and

WHEREAS, the City will advocate to maintain state funding for human services, public health, education, and environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, Seattle will work with other local governments to protect direct state funding to local governments and support additional local authority to provide resources for transportation, public safety, human services, and public health programs; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. All issues on the City of Seattle State Legislative Agenda are important and will be worked on during the 2011 state legislative session. However, the Agenda is separated into three sections to lend some hierarchy and provide guidance to Legislators, City elected officials, and lobbyists. The sections in the Agenda are defined as follows:

Primary focus - These issues are most important, directly impact the City of Seattle, and will be the primary focus of our efforts throughout the 2011 legislative session:

1. Fully participate in the budget process. Our goal is to strive to protect human services, health, K-12 and higher education, and other critical areas to the extent possible.
2. Work with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to develop and advocate for a comprehensive package of local options for fiscal flexibility. Consider removal of the 6% cap on utility taxes on cable, gas, telephone, and electricity as part of this package.
3. Secure sustainable long- and short-term funding options for King County Metro transit.
4. Defend Seattle and all Washington municipalities against any proposed legislation that would create a legal mechanism to shift the state's responsibility for cost overruns on major state transportation projects to local governments.
5. Address criminal justice issues related to juvenile gun possession penalties, vehicular homicide and modifications to the state's "Three Strikes" law.

Other major issues – We will try to make progress on this list of issues in the 2011 legislative session; however, we realize that legislative approval for many of these items may take several years. See Exhibit 1 for a list of these issues.

Other issues – Legislative action on these issues would make a difference to Seattle and, in most cases, should not face organized opposition. Addressing many of these issues would only require small technical changes to State law and we will ask our Seattle legislators to lead the effort on

moving these issues forward during the 2011 legislative session. See Exhibit 1 for a list of these issues.

Section 2. The City of Seattle 2011 State Legislative Agenda attached to this resolution as Exhibit 1 is adopted.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2010, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day of _____, 2010.

President _____ of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2010.

City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachment: Exhibit 1

Exhibit 1

City of Seattle Priorities for 2011 Legislative Session

Primary focus:

6. Fully participate in the budget process. Our goal is to strive to protect human services, health, K-12 and higher education, and other critical areas to the extent possible.
7. Work with AWC to develop and advocate for a comprehensive package of local options for fiscal flexibility. Consider removal of the 6% cap on utility taxes on cable, gas, telephone, and electricity as part of this package.
8. Secure sustainable long- and short-term options for funding Metro transit.
9. Defend Seattle and all Washington municipalities against any proposed legislation that would create a legal mechanism to shift the responsibility for cost overruns on major state transportation projects from the state to local governments.
10. Address criminal justice issues related to juvenile gun possession penalties, vehicular homicide and modifications to the state's "Three Strikes" law.

Other major issues:

1. Secure tolling authority for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and funding for SR 520 and adopt legislation that establishes clear triggers for conversion to full dynamic tolling on SR 520 and for changes to the minimum HOV occupancy levels to facilitate traffic flow, particularly for transit, on the corridor.
2. Secure full funding for the Model Toxics Control Act.
3. Advocate for a new funding source for storm water control and salmon recovery.
4. Support the extension of stadium taxes and appropriate allocation to local priorities, including arts and culture and the Visitors and Convention Bureau.
5. Support an education reform package.
6. Address issues relating to the Flood Control District and funding for high priority City projects.
7. Participate in the development of a comprehensive transportation package that is consistent with Green House Gas and Vehicle Miles Traveled reduction targets.
8. Change the commercial parking tax authority so that it is applied to parking stalls, instead of applying only to paid parking.

9. Approve legislation creating a producer take-back responsibility for pharmaceuticals and medicines

Other issues:

1. Secure authority for local jurisdictions to set 20 mph speed limits on non-arterial streets (if needed pending legal research).
2. Obtain legislative approval for a single set of licensing requirements for childcare offered in public owned buildings (schools, community centers, etc...) that recognizes that these sites are generally suitable for pre-K programs and before and after school childcare programs.
3. Extend the current Main Street Tax Credit program to cities with populations greater than 190,000.
4. Implement strategies and recommendations for clean energy jobs proposed by the WA State Clean Energy Leadership Council (due out in Dec).
5. Secure legislation that assigns vehicle license plates to owners not vehicles, which would allow fines to follow the owner rather than the car as they currently do.
6. Obtain tools to allow better enforcement of disabled parking placards.
7. Adopt legislation that exempts farmers markets from SEPA.
8. Adopt legislation modifying the definition of farmers market to clarify the legal status of the Pike Place Market.
9. Work with AWC on a potential package clarifying that the Public Records Act does not require ongoing or continuing responses, exemption for witnesses, etc.
10. Remove the requirement in Washington State law (WAC 480-120-251) that requires phone companies to publish and distribute telephone directories.
11. Adopt tax increment financing for the Transfer of Development Rights.
12. Adopt "Cottage" laws that allow value-added home processing and selling of low-risk food items.